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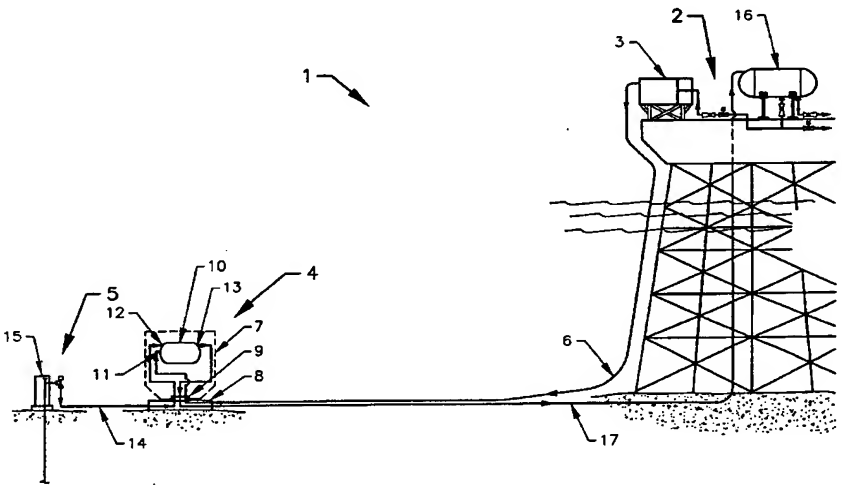
(54) Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMBATING THE FORMATION OF EMULSIONS



(57) Abstract: A system (1) for combating the formation of emulsions in production fluid has a control system which compares the volumetric flow rates of oil and water separated from production fluid in a separator vessel (16). When the ratio of the separated oil approaches that where emulsions are expected to form, a portion of the separated water is diverted into a fluid mixing device (10) and commingled with the production fluid being conveyed to the separator vessel (16) so that the commingled fluid has an oil to water ratio outside the range of oil to water ratios at which emulsions are likely to form. Alternatively, instead of comparing the volumetric flow rates of separated oil and water, the system can detect the presence of emulsions in the fluid in the separator vessel (16) by having a nucleonic level sensor in the vessel, the sensor being linked to the control system.

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